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## National Detector Dog Manual

# Introduction

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## Purpose

This manual has the following three purposes:

1. A reference guide for experienced Canine Officers to assist them in performing their duties.
2. A training tool for orienting new Canine Officers.
3. General information for secondary users, such as guidelines for supervisors and managers of Canine Officers, and Regional Canine Program Coordinators (RCPCs).

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## Scope

The National Detector Dog Manual covers background information, procedures, health care, and training related to detector dog activities. The procedures have a national focus to guide detector dog activities, and they are supplemental to general operational procedures in the Airport and Maritime Operations Manual (AMOM).

This manual is divided into five chapters:

- ◆ **Introduction**
- ◆ **Procedures**
- ◆ **Health Care**
- ◆ **Training**
- ◆ **Glossary**

Also included are appendixes and an index.

The **Introduction** chapter provides basic information about the manual. The information includes its purpose, scope, users, related documents, and a description of unfamiliar or unique symbols and highlighting that are used throughout the manual; the history of detector dogs in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Services (APHIS) and activity goals of detector dog activities in Plant Protection Quarantine (PPQ).

The **Procedures** chapter provides national-level guidelines for implementing and maintaining proficient detector dog teams at PPQ ports of entry as an alternative inspection technique. The sections cover the equipment needed, kenneling requirements, procuring detector dogs, how to manage incidents, public awareness, utilizing and retiring detector dogs. This chapter is tabbed as follows:

- ◆ **Equipment**
- ◆ **Incidents**
- ◆ **Kenneling Requirements**
- ◆ **Procuring Detector Dogs**
- ◆ **Public Awareness**
- ◆ **Retiring Detector Dogs**
- ◆ **Utilizing Detector Dogs**

The **Health Care** chapter provides basic facts and guidance for taking care of detector dogs. This chapter covers the external and internal anatomy of a dog, the common diseases and parasites of dogs, first aid and emergency care techniques, and general care of detector dogs. The chapter is tabbed as follows:

- ◆ **Anatomy**
- ◆ **Diseases and Parasites**
- ◆ **First Aid and Emergency Care**
- ◆ **General Care**
- ◆ **Grooming**

The **Training** chapter provides information about the training conducted for the detector dog team.

The **Glossary** defines specialized words, abbreviations and acronyms, training terms, and other difficult terms used to implement and manage detector dog activities.

The *Appendixes* list information that support the remaining content of the manual. The appendixes include history and trivia about beagles; lists of contacts within APHIS, roles and responsibilities that support detector dog activities, and equipment; guidelines for reporting and documenting results, for rating the weight of a dog, for shipping and daily transporting detector dogs, and for keeping the manual updated.

### What the National Detector Dog Manual Does Not Cover

This manual does not cover:

- ◆ Local and regional policy and guidelines that should expand the national guidance provided in this manual.
- ◆ General, operational guidance provided by other PPQ manuals such as the following:
  - ❖ Operations from the AMOM
  - ❖ Monitoring from the Agricultural Quarantine Inspection Monitoring (AQIM) Handbook
  - ❖ Treatments from the PPQ Treatment Manual and the Animal Product Manual

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## Users

The primary users of this manual are PPQ Canine Officers. Secondary users include supervisors, Port Directors, RCPCs, the National Detector Dog Program Manager (NDDPM), Training Specialists, Animal Caretakers, State Plant Health Directors (SPHDs), State Operational Support Officers, Regional Directors, Regional Program Managers, headquarters staff, other Federal agencies, and foreign governments.

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## Key Contacts

PPQ detector dog teams are deployed at work locations across the country. The teams are supported by program managers at the regional and national levels, and program coordinators at the regional level. Refer to **Appendix A** for a directory of addresses, telephone numbers, and FAX numbers of the PPQ work locations that support detector dog teams.

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## Communications

All communication regarding the detector dog program must be channelled through the RCPC.

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## Roles and Responsibilities

PPQ's detector dog activities are managed within the regional structure by the RCPCs. At their assigned work location, the detector dog teams may be directed by a supervisor, manager, or port director. Supervisory and administrative support are provided through normal PPQ channels.

Those who support detector dog activities in PPQ hold the following positions:

- ◆ Canine Officers
- ◆ Co-workers
- ◆ Local managers (supervisors, port directors)
- ◆ Regional Canine Program Coordinators (RCPCs)
- ◆ Regional Program Managers
- ◆ National Detector Dog Instructors at the National Detector Dog Training Center (NDDTC)
- ◆ Animal Care Technicians
- ◆ Professional Development Center (PDC)
- ◆ National Detector Dog Program Manager (NDDPM)

Refer to [Appendix B](#) for examples of performance elements and for roles and responsibilities of these positions. What is listed in Appendix B is not all inclusive of the tasks performed by those who hold the positions.

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## History of USDA-APHIS Detector Dogs<sup>1</sup>

In 1984, USDA-APHIS began a detector dog program at Los Angeles International Airport with one detector dog team consisting of a beagle and a Canine Officer.

At first, APHIS tried a variety of dog breeds and worked with U.S. Customs to develop a detector dog program. As a result of this initial work, beagles were selected as the first detector dogs because of their acute sense of smell and their gentle nature with people. Refer to [\*\*Appendix C, History of Detector Dog Programs\*\*](#), for additional information about the beagle breed.

After selecting beagles as the Agency's first detector dogs, APHIS worked with the military at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas to train the first detector dog teams. The first class was held in 1986. Much of the early USDA detector dog training was modeled after methods used by the United States Air Force. Training methods have evolved since the inception of the program to include methods based on successful practical experience. Agency contributors to the creation of the detector dog program were the following: Douglas R. Ladner, PPQ Senior Staff Officer, and Mike Simon, Mel Robles, Cal Brannaka, and Hal Fingerman, all PPQ Canine Officers.

In 1987, APHIS opened three regional training centers and began training its own detector dog teams in 1988. The regional training centers were located in New York, Miami, and San Francisco, each staffed with one trainer who began conducting pilot classes in 1988. As the program grew, and training and support needs changed, a national training center was implemented created and the three regional training centers were consolidated. In October 1997, the National Detector Dog Training Center (NDDTC) officially opened.

Now detector dog teams are located at all major airports across the United States. Also, detector dog activities have been expanded to mail facilities, land border crossings, and ports that handle cargo.

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## **Vision and Activity Goals**

### **Vision Statement**

Deploy detector dogs in all areas where they can be most effectively utilized and integrated into the operations of APHIS and PPQ.

### **Activity Goals**

1. Establish proficiency levels that all detector dog teams must maintain to be effective in protecting American agriculture.

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1 Previously known as the "Beagle Brigade"

2. Successfully integrate the detector dog activity into the agricultural quarantine inspection (AQI) operation in:
  - A. Baggage clearance at airports, maritime ports, ships, and military facilities
  - B. International mail and small parcel clearance (eg., USPS, DHL and FedEx)
  - C. Bulk and containerized cargo clearance at airports and maritime ports
  - D. Vehicle, cargo, and baggage clearance at land border crossings
  - E. Smuggling interdiction in all venues
  - F. Hawaii domestic mail program
3. Deliver excellent and timely training that will support the local, regional, and national AQI and related programs.
4. Provide training to supervisors and port directors so they can effectively manage detector dog activities.
5. Explore activities in addition to traditional AQI in which detector dogs may effectively be used.

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## Related Documents

- ◆ Detector Dog Program Training Manual
- ◆ Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) Pamphlets
- ◆ 9CFR Parts 1, 2, and 3, Humane Treatment of Dogs and Cats; Temperature Requirements
- ◆ 9CFR Chapter 1
- ◆ AMOM and other related import manuals

- ◆ Animal Welfare Act
- ◆ Traveling With Your Pet, Miscellaneous Publication No. 1536
- ◆ Beagle Brigade web page at the following address:  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/travel>
- ◆ Bill H.R. 2559 (Barney Bill)

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## Conventions

### Bullets

Bulleted lists indicate that there is no hierarchical order in the information being listed. Bullets and sub-bullets look like this in the manual:

- ◆ Collars
  - ❖ Slip
  - ❖ Leather
  - ❖ Nylon

### Caution

A caution advisory indicates that people or dogs could possibly be endangered or slightly hurt. Compare to “warning.” A caution advisory looks like the following throughout the manual:



### Chapter

This manual contains the following five chapters: **Introduction**, **Procedures**, **Health Care**, **Training**, and **Glossary**.

### Chapter Table of Contents

Almost every section in each chapter has a table of contents. Those are at the beginning of the chapter or section and facilitate finding information within a section. The table of contents lists the heading titles within each section.

### Control Data

Information placed at the top and bottom of each page helps users navigate the manual and its updates. At the top of the page is the chapter, section, and first-level heading. At the bottom of the page is the month, year, and version of the manual, its title, page number, and the unit responsible for the content.

## Heading Levels

Within each section there are three headings. The first heading is within a horizontal line and followed by the title that continues across both the left and right columns. The second heading is in the right-hand column with the text beginning below it. The third heading is in the left-hand column and is used to easily scan topics.

## Highlighting Tables, Figures, Sections

When tables, figures, or other sections are referenced in the body of the manual, they are emphasized *in italic print*. For example, refer to the *Glossary* for a definition of primary residence.

## Important Note

Helpful hint(s) or other information that assists the user look like the following throughout the manual:



## Must

When must is used in this manual, it means mandatory by policy.

## Notice

Notices indicate a dangerous situation is possible in which goods might be damaged. A notice looks like the following throughout the manual:



## Numbering Scheme

A three-level numbering scheme is used in this manual for pages, tables, and figures. The first number represents the chapter. The second number represents the section. The third number represents the page, table, or figure. This numbering scheme allows for easier updating and adding of pages without having to reprint an entire chapter. Dashes are used in page numbering to differentiate page numbers from decimal numbers.



## Section

Two of the larger chapters in this manual are broken down into sections. Each section begins on a new, right-hand page. Sections are identified by the second number in the numbering scheme used for this manual. The **Procedures** and **Health Care** manual chapters have sections,

## Tab Colors

Only two tabs are colored. The section titled **Incidents** has a red tab, and the section titled **First Aid and Emergency Care** has a green tab. The users are able to quickly find guidance when confronted with a major incident such as a dog aggression incident, or when administering first aid and emergency care to a detector dog.

## Warning

A warning advisory indicates that people or dogs could possibly be hurt or killed. Compare to “Caution.” A warning advisory looks like the following throughout the manual:



